

**REMARKS**

The abstract has been amended to be less than 150 words thereby overcoming the examiners objection to the abstract.

The specification has been amended, therefore overcoming the objection regarding page 17, line 15.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The claims have been amended by canceling claims 9-11 and 13-16; amending claims 1-8, 10, 12, and 17; claims 18 - 20 are unchanged. Claims 1-8, 10, 12, and 17-20 remain in the application.

**DOUBLE PATENTING**

Applicant submits herewith the terminal disclaimer that fully complies with 37 CFR 3.73(b) and therefore the double patenting rejection no longer applies.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101:**

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

*The examiner is of the opinion that the "vectors" as recited in the claims are abstractions that are not associated with any concrete real-world application. The examiner has therefore concluded (based on re Walderman) that the invention as claimed in claims 1-20 does not produce a "useful, concrete and tangible" result.*

We refer the examiner to amended claim 1 that now includes the limitation: "*a digital filter with a filter vector input for receiving said sequence of input vectors obtained from a digitized speech signal*". Claim 1 also includes the limitation "*and wherein the slowly evolving component encoder processes said smoothed estimate value to provide a digitized encoded slowly evolving component of the speech signal*". Clearly, the input vectors as recited in amended claim 1 are input vectors obtained from a digitized speech signal and therefore these input vectors cannot be considered as abstractions. Furthermore, the output from the system as recited in claim 1 is a digitized encoded slowly evolving component of the speech signal. Hence,

amended claim 1 has a "useful, concrete and tangible result", this result being the digitized encoded slowly evolving component of the speech signal. The limitations of "*a digital filter with a filter vector input for receiving said sequence of input vectors obtained from a digitized speech signal*" and "*wherein the slowly evolving component encoder processes said smoothed estimate value to provide a digitized encoded slowly evolving component of the speech signal*" are also recited in amended base claim 6. Furthermore, similar limitations are recited in amended base claim 17.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all base claims and their independent claims now on file are "useful", "concrete" and provide a "tangible result". Accordingly, applicant request the examiner's to withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

This application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that any amendments or claim cancellations made herein and not substantively discussed above are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments or cancellations not substantively discussed. Furthermore, any remarks made herein with respect to a given claim or amendment are intended only in the context of that specific claim or amendment, and should not be applied to other claims, amendments, or aspects of Applicant's invention.

Applicant specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of differing and broader scope than those presented herein, in a continuation application.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

Respectfully submitted,

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